



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

July 28, 2008

Dear Agency Director,

As our state approaches the next budget year, setting priorities remains essential as we reflect on the fiscal challenges we faced during this past budget cycle and will likely face next year. For those agencies that experienced mid-year cuts in the earlier part of the decade, this reasoning should make sense.

Prioritization has been and will continue to be an important part of this administration's budgets. It is for this reason we begin the fifth year of the *Budgeting for Results* process. I greatly appreciate the work that you and your staff have done this summer in compiling your budget into the activity-based format.

Enclosed you will find budget planning forms for FY 2009-10 that are in the format I'd ask you to use. These forms serve to notify us of new funding requests you may have during the upcoming fiscal year. In addition to the new requests, we are also asking for a couple of additional items that will help us better prepare for the upcoming budget cycle – which is sure to be a tough one. First, we are asking you to prioritize the top five percent of state spending and the bottom five percent of state spending at your agency. Second, we are asking you to provide us with a budget savings equal to the new request for spending. In other words, if you ask for \$1 million in a new program, what would you cut at your agency worth \$1 million to pay for it?

In completing these forms, we will continue our efforts to craft a budget that moves our state in the right direction.

Thanks again for your hard work on behalf of South Carolinians. Take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford

MS/gg

Enclosure